



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANTS** : Hubbell, et al.  
**SERIAL NO.** : 09/644,121  
**FILED** : August 23, 2000  
**FOR** : Novel Polymer Compounds  
**ART UNIT** : 1713  
**EXAMINER** : C. Henderson

19/D  
B/H  
9/25/3

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop Non-fee Amendment  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Amendment/Response to Office Action

S I R :

In response to the Office Action dated March 13, 2003, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the following arguments in determining the patentability of claims 1-6 in the instant application. After review, no claims have been amended to place the present application in condition for allowance.

The following claims are in the present application:

DI 1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a pre-formed, hydrolytically susceptible non-addition polyanionic polymer comprising polymer strands formed from at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer, wherein the polymer strands are linked by at least one linking moiety comprising a hydrolytically susceptible bond formed with a multidentate compound comprising two or more ethylenically unsaturated moieties, each such moiety being linked to the multidentate compound through a hydrolytically susceptible bond, wherein at least one of which monomers has:

i) one more more functional groups that can be titrated with base to form negatively charged functional groups, or